

Classification: _____

SECRET

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Background Use Only
Do Not Reproduce(This form is to be used for material extracted
from CIA—controlled documents.)Betsey Wolf
November 7, 1978

Lawson, John Howard 201-5,603

A review of this file indicates that it is very old with documents dating back to 1946. There is no 201 file opening sheet in the file. Most of the documents in the file are third agency documents primarily from the FBI.

Background (from 27 July 1951 ²² [TMMW] 1794 i6-3 [Mexico City])

DPOB: 25 September, 1894 (or 1895) in New York City or Long Island

Lawson was a motion picture writer in Hollywood who reportedly had been a member of the Communist Party since 1934. He was allegedly one of the most important persons in the Communist movement in Hollywood in the late 1930's. Lawson served a 1-year sentence from 1950-51 for contempt of Congress for refusal to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in Oct. 1947.

The file indicates that:

- 1) Lawson planned to travel in Eastern Europe for approximately 1 year beginning in May 1961.
- 2) the Cuban Institute of Motion Picture Arts & Industry expressed an interest, during 1961, in having Lawson as a teacher & film writer.

Correspondence was arranged through:

Sofia Harro de VELASCO, Patricio Sanz 36, Departamento 6, Mexico 12, D.F., Mexico and Teresa PROENZA Proenza (201-291531), at the Cuban Embassy in Mexico.

The file does not state exactly when Lawson went to the USSR. Information from an FBI Report on Lawson dated 18 Dec. 61 indicates that Lawson is in a sanatorium near Moscow & plans to remain in Soviet Union for about 8 months after his release - to work with movie industry.

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11112695

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10144-10116

ON

1/14/98 *dal*
☒ RELEASE IN FULL

☐ RELEASE IN PART

☐ TOTAL DENIAL

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A copy of an index card re Hawson bears notation:

[074-006-676/03]

SX - 05230

28 NOV. 63

Card indicates that Hawson is a "occ. cinema script writer" & is residing in Moscow as of 1963.

File Title: John Hawson Loose Documents

Report No. 51 dated 28 NOV. 63 reports info. re Hawson in Moscow from a source, "VIADUCT". Source describes Hawson's attitude & treatment in Moscow; also states that Hawson has now returned to U.S.

File Title: Hawson, John Howard Loose Documents

Contains only reports in which Hawson is mentioned.

No ~~other~~ indication appears of any CIA contact w/ Hawson following his return from the USSR.

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